

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang, U.S. Patent 6,209,413. Claim 1 has been amended to state that the locking device defines the limited angle of rotation of the actuating element. The locking device 64, 124 of Chang does not limit the angle of rotation of the actuating element. Therefore, Chang fails to disclose a locking device that defines the limited angle of rotation of the actuating element as claimed in claim 1. For this reason, this rejection of the claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4 and 7 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Since claims 2, 4 and 7 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of amended claim 1, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Zaltron, U.S. Patent 6,898,824. Claim 1 has been amended to state that the deformable disengagement of at least one of the first and second latching elements permits disengagement of the actuating element from the housing element. To disengage the slots 9,10 and the pin 12 of Zaltron from each other, neither the slots 9, 10 or the pin 12 are deformed. Therefore, Zaltron fails to disclose a *deformable* disengagement of at least one of the first and second latching elements to permit the disengagement of the actuating element from the housing element. For this reason, this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 4-7 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Since claims 2 and 4-7 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of

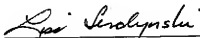
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Claims 2 and 4-7 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Since claims 2 and 4-7 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of amended claim 1, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 1.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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